



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Kathleen Cahill
Community Development
Senior Planner

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Jeff Hutter
Rosemary Larking
Barbara Lischinsky
Heather Platt
Jason Rosenberg

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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

AGENDA *

Date: May 9, 2011

Time: 6: 30 p.m.

Place: Room 209

1. **Minutes:** Consideration of the approval of the minutes from the April 11, 2011 meeting of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities {6:30}
2. **CDBG Report & FY12 Funding Update:** Projects funded with CDBG Access funds {6:35}
3. **Discussion:** HP parking in West Newton and sidewalk at the intersection of Braeland Street and Cypress Street {7:00}
4. **Report:** Members and public report on any issues of potential non-compliance in the City which are then forwarded to the Inspectional Services Department {7:15 }
 - Updates: New England Mobile Book Fair; Newton District Court; Panera; B Street; City Hall Elevator; Bike Racks
5. **Other Business:** {7:45}

Next Meetings: June 13, July 11, August 8

*Supplementary materials are available for public review in the Planning Department in the Basement of City Hall by the Tuesday before the meeting. For more information **contact Kathleen Cahill 617.796.1125.**

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Kathleen Cahill at 617-796-1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting.



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2011

Setti D. Warren
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Members Present:

Jane Brown
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
Barbara Lischinsky
Heather Platt
Girard Plante, Co-Chair

Staff Present:

Kathleen Cahill, Community Development Senior Planner
Robert Muollo Jr., Housing Planner

Public:

Jeff Dougan
Sandra Lingley
Susan Roberts

Regrets:

Jeff Hutter
Jason Rosenberg

R. Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- 1. Minutes:** Consideration of the approval of the minutes from the March 14, 2011 meeting of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities.

B. Lischinsky should be listed as present in the March 14, 2011 minutes. Massachusetts Association for the Blind should also be corrected to Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and thermometers in the context of the Dedham Street project discussion should be changed to thermostats. J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments. B. Lischinsky seconded the motion and the Committee voted 8-0-0 to approve the March 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

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2. Guest Speaker: Jeff Dougan, Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD)

J. Dougan explained that the MOD is tied to Disability Commissions throughout the state by statute and is a resource for Commissions. MOD also functions as the State's ADA Coordinator. J. Dougan provided the Committee with copies of the following: Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 8J, general information on Municipal Commissions on Disability, information on tax incentives available to eligible Massachusetts businesses completing accessibility improvements, the Disability Law Booklet, Summary of the ADA Title II and Title III Regulation Changes, and "ADA Action Steps" which was published by the Adaptive Environments Center. J. Dougan will email R. Caruso with an electronic version of these documents. He also provided a copy of contact information for each of the Disability Commissions in Massachusetts to the Co-Chairs.

J. Dougan is in charge of the Community Services Unit (CSU) of MOD which runs Community Access Monitor Program (CAMP) trainings throughout Massachusetts. CAMP trainings educate individuals on how to evaluate buildings for accessibility compliance according to the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. The CSU also assists municipalities with accessibility compliance reviews on newly built City buildings. J. Dougan indicated that the State is working on revisions to 521 CMR (Massachusetts Architectural Access Code) that would incorporate the federal accessibility regulations.

Members mentioned their concern about the proposal to eliminate state funding for the State's Deaf-Blind program. J. Dougan will speak to Myra Berloff, Director of MOD about these concerns. This issue is something that could be included in an upcoming MOD newsletter. R. Larking wondered about the Governor's Committee on Disability Policy and if this Committee will be disbanded. J. Dougan believes that this is more "in limbo" and that funding for the Committee is being sought and new appointments have not been made yet. He will speak with Myra Berloff to see if the timing is right for MOD to make a push for this Committee.

MOD will conduct three CAMP trainings this year in Salem, Pittsfield, Worcester and Amherst. J. Dougan will send information on dates for these trainings. K. Cahill also wondered if MOD has resources available to help the Newton Disabilities Commission provide trainings to City officials, employees, or members of other committees and boards that may be interested in learning more about accessibility. J. Dougan indicated that MOD can work something out with the City depending on the topic and timeframe. He will also see if there is an opening in 2012 to conduct a CAMP training in Newton.

K. Cahill mentioned that she has been made aware of a change to the RIDE's policy regarding sedans. Previously RIDE users that required a sedan as a result of their disability were able to provide a doctor's note that would guarantee they would receive a sedan when they used the RIDE. This policy has changed and the RIDE no longer guarantees a sedan. This has presented a problem for several RIDE users in Newton. K. Cahill wondered if MOD has heard about this change and if there was a way for the Newton Disabilities Commission to advocate for a policy revision. J. Dougan will refer the question to a staff member in the Client Services Unit.

J. Fairley wondered how many Disability Commissions there were in Massachusetts and how many of those Commissions received revenue from handicap parking fines. There are approximately 160 Disability Commissions in Massachusetts and about 60-70 of these commissions receive some of (25% or 50%) or the entire amount of handicap parking fine revenue that comes into their communities.

L. Chansky wondered why MassPort (Seaport, Logan Airport) is able to meter handicap parking spaces. J. Dougan will look into this situation and get back to the Committee. There was also a discussion about charging for Handicap Spaces that are located in parking lots with one central machine that is on an accessible route. J. Dougan will find out if these spaces are allowed to be metered.

3. Report: Fair Housing Month Event

R. Muollo, Housing Planner, updated the Committee on the plans to celebrate Fair Housing Month in April, through an event titled *Reasonable Accommodations in Newton: Housing and Beyond*. The event will take place on May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carroll Center for the Blind. Barbara Chandler, from Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, will begin with a short informational session on reasonable accommodations (i.e. what they are, the process behind requesting a reasonable accommodation) followed by a group of panelists discussing their own experiences with reasonable accommodations in housing as well as other public facilities. The Fair Housing Committee would like the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities to co-sponsor the event and R. Muollo has been working with G. Plante in addition to the Fair Housing Committee to coordinate the event. The current panelists include: Linda Hiller, on the Board of Directors for Understanding Our Differences in Newton; Kathy Laufer, Social Worker at the Senior Center; and Doug Sweet, from the Fair Housing Committee.

There was additional discussion about B. Lischinsky and R. Larking participating in the panel. R. Muollo will have a follow-up conversation with the Fair Housing Committee and B. Lischinsky and R. Larking about the possibility of becoming panelists.

On an unrelated matter, K. Cahill asked how many members have been sworn in as Commission members. Several members have not been sworn in and K. Cahill will ask if someone from the Clerk's Office can swear in the remainder of members before the next Committee meeting, May 9.

4. Report: Projects funded with CDBG Access funds

- Detectable warnings – Intersection of Sargent and Centre

K. Cahill reported on CDBG access projects. The Committee discussed in detail plans to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals on Washington Street nearby Newton-Wellesley Hospital. In November the Committee discussed using FY10 APS funds to install APS at the intersection of Washington Street and the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Two quotes were sought from Republic ITS, the City's APS contractor.

The first quote (Option #1) included the installation of 6 APS, one at each corner. Republic ITS estimated this work to cost \$11,100. The second quote (Option #2) included the installation of 4 APS and the removal of 2 APS, at the northwestern and northeastern corners of the intersection. Consideration was given to removing these 2 APS because the crossing was determined to be under-used by the City Traffic Engineer. The removal of these signals would also conserve APS maintenance costs. Republic ITS estimated this work to cost \$8,800. In order to ensure that the crossings at this intersection would be safe for everyone the City would also need to remove the curb cuts where the APS signals were being taken out. Removing these curb cuts would prevent anyone with a visual impairment from trying to cross at this part of the intersection. The

preliminary cost of removing the curb cuts was \$3,000, bringing the total cost of Option #1 to \$11,800.

This week the Department of Public Works submitted the finalized cost of removing the 2 curb cuts at this intersection, which was \$8,000 instead of \$3,000. This additional amount increases the cost of Option #2 from \$11,800 to \$16,800.

Staff recommended that the Committee consider moving forward with Option #1 instead of Option #2 because it would be more cost effective. Option #2 would still require an additional \$2,300 in CDBG Access funds. These additional funds could be transferred from the FY09 Retrofitting Curb Cut project, which came in under budget.

L. Chansky made a motion to move forward with Option #1 (6 APS) at the intersection of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Washington Street. R. Larking seconded the motion. There was some discussion about whether or not the pedestrian crossing operated on an “all stop” or a “concurrent schedule.” B. Lischinsky made a motion to move forward with Option #1 and transfer \$2,300 in CDBG Access funds to the FY10 APS project if the intersection will be “all stop” or if the City will agree to install a “No Turn on Red” sign. R. Larking seconded the motion and the Committee voted 8-0-0 to pursue Option #1 with the transfer of additional funds if the above conditions are met.

H. Platt brought up the fact that there are no detectable warnings at the intersection of Centre Street and Sargent Street. This intersection borders the Carroll Center for the Blind. The cost of detectable warnings at this intersection could likely be covered by the remaining \$3,700 in the FY09 Retrofitting Curb Cut project. L. Chansky moved that \$3,700 in FY09 Retrofitting Curb Cut funds pay for the installation of detectable warnings at the intersection of Centre Street and Sargent Street. J. Brown seconded the motion and the Committee voted 8-0-0 to install detectable warnings at this location.

5. **Discussion:** HP parking in West Newton and sidewalk at the intersection of Braeland Street and Cypress Street

The Committee discussed the intersection of Braeland Street and Cypress Street. The crosswalk on Cypress Street needs to be re-painted and K. Cahill will request this re-painting from the DPW. She will also complete some research to determine who owns the sidewalk on the northern side of Braeland abutting the MBTA Green line. If the sidewalk is within the jurisdiction of the City K. Cahill will measure its length to see if CDBG Access funds could fund sidewalk improvements on this street.

A discussion was also conducted on potential sites for handicap parking in West Newton. A potential Handicap Parking space and crossing at Washington Street by the Shing Yee Restaurant was discussed. However, this would require the Aldermanic approval of the installation of a pedestrian island. The consensus of the Committee was that that an additional island would be difficult for traffic flow. The Committee spent a great deal of time discussing alternative locations for a space but was unable to identify a location where it would be safe for a placard user to exit his/her own car given the narrowness of the streets as well as the sloped topography in the village. The Committee tabled the discussion until a later time.

Finally, the Committee briefly discussed recommending a relocation of the handicap space on Windsor Street from the west side of the street to the east side. K. Cahill measured the slope on

each side and the running slope of the east side of Windsor Street is slightly less than the west side. The consensus of the Committee was that it was not worth relocating the space given the slight decrease in slope.

5. Report: Members and public report on any issues of potential non-compliance in the City which are then forwarded to the Inspectional Services Department {7:15 }

- Updates: New England Mobile Book Fair; Newton District Court; Panera; B Street

L. Chansky believes that there is a new bike rack on Route 9 that is interfering with the accessible width of the sidewalk. She cannot remember exactly where it is located but will keep an eye out for it and notify the City if it is problematic.

R. Caruso had an experience where there was no companion seating in one of the Chestnut Hill AMC theatres. In response, a City Inspector researched the property and conducted a site visit. The building was built prior to 1970 at which time there was no requirement for accessible seating. The theatre does provide accessible and companion seating in two of their five theatres.

B. Lischinsky reported a problem with the elevator sensor on the City Hall Elevator. K. Cahill will report this to the Building Department.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
CDBG Access Projects Report
May 9, 2011

Accessible Pedestrian Signals (Project CD10-03D. Expended, \$7,818; Budget balance: \$17,995). Centre St. and Centre Ave. is a priority intersection; however it is on-hold pending a final decision by the Newton Corner Advisory Committee (NCAC). The Mayor's Committee has the option to pursue these improvements independent of the NCAC. Installation of APS improvements at Washington St. and Commonwealth Ave. and at Washington Street by Newton-Wellesley Hospital will be completed this spring (pending approval of an "all stop" or "no right on red" sign).

Charlesbank Playground (Project CD0903C. Expended, \$22,872; Budget balance: \$7,125). Phase I includes new play equipment and swings on top of rubberized safety surfacing, a new accessible entrance ramp, accessible benches and picnic tables, and planting of new trees and shrubs. The project is 80% complete – all walkways, new sidewalks and the ramp have been installed as well as the play equipment and the rubberized safety surfacing. Handrails for the ramp still need to be installed and the area needs to be seeded this spring.

Curb Cuts (Project CD1003C, Expended: \$33,503 Budget balance: \$110,978; CD1103G, Budget Balance \$78,000). Work at Lowell @ Washington is scheduled for July 2011. Design for Walnut @ Newtonville and @ Austin Street seems to be stalled; Committee needs to discuss additional curb cut priorities (@ Washington and Commonwealth).

Retrofitting Curb Cuts (Project CD0903E, Budget balance, \$6,000). A total of 7 locations (Homer Street, Beacon St. @ Dalton, Centre Green @ Langley, 1188 Centre Green, 82 Lincoln Street, 100 Walnut Street, 28 Commonwealth St) (19 curb cuts) were fitted with tactile warnings. Cabot Street and Sargent Street intersection added at 4/11 meeting – to be completed Summer 2011.

Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space (CDR09-03, Expended: 15,051; Budget balance: \$7,783)

Project includes retrofitting park for handicap accessibility through the construction of an accessible pathway and the addition of a van accessible parking space. Construction began mid-September. Accessible pathway complete, HP space installed (no striping), work on water mitigation will begin in May.

Newton Community Service Center – Auditorium Ramp (CD11-03E, Budget balance: 5,000). Construction of an accessible ramp in the auditorium of the organization's Waltham Street location. City and NCSC working to finalize design and project timeline.

Historic Newton/The Jackson Homestead – Archives Preservation and Access (CD1103F, Budget balance \$40,000). Construction of an accessible ramp into the entrance of the Jackson Homestead. Design work being finalized.